

Serial No. 10/722,563
Docket No. PTGF-03095

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REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Mondt for taking time from his busy schedule on May 5, 2006, to conduct a personal interview with Applicants' representative. The interview was productive in an exchange of viewpoints on the patentability issues of the present invention.

Claims 1-5, 13-16, and 18-27 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 19, and 27 have been amended to provide clarity to the claim structure, as suggested by the Examiner during the personal interview conducted on May 5, 2006. It is again pointed out that claim 27 is added to correspond to claim 12 previously indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent format.

It is noted that Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein, if any, should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

During the interview, the Examiner raised concern about the symbology used in the claims, specifically the use of "x" and "y", and suggested that Applicants intended to use "x" and "1-x", as used in a sample text to which the Examiner referred during the interview. Applicants have considered this request but submit that such symbology is indeed intended and would be difficult to change, since it is used throughout the specification, in addition to the claims. Perhaps more significant, Applicants submit that this symbology is indeed common in the art, as evidenced by its similar use in US Patent 6,632,379 to Mitomo, a reference relied upon by the Examiner in the prior art evaluation.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully decline to revise this symbology, since it is believed to be well understood in the art and has been used consistently in the present Application.

The comments and traversals of the Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.111 filed on April 20, 2006, are not significantly changed by this Supplemental Amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 13-16, and 18-27, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date:

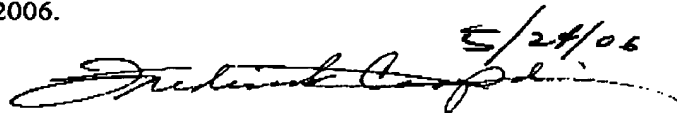
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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 to the USPTO this Supplemental Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111, as well as a copy directly to Examiner J. Mondt at 571-273-1919 on May 24, 2006.



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